

Oxford Strategic Partnership update

Task & Finish Proposal - Alternative Giving

1 Introduction

1.1 The Oxford Strategic Partnership, in common with other stakeholders, wants to see the development and launch of an alternative (diverted) giving campaign in Oxford that is:

- a) **Supported by key partners** - including organisations that assist homeless people, as well as the general public, and
- b) **Creates a greater public understanding of the consequences of giving money to people rough sleeping** - persuading people, who may otherwise be motivated to give money to people on the street, to donate instead to organisations and / or initiatives that can help to prevent and relieve homelessness
- c) **Raises a significant amount of funding**

1.2 This short report follows an initial report to the Partnership (June 2018) and summarises the:

- Developing policy context for this initiative since June 2018
- What progress has been made towards delivery of the initiative?

2 Background and context

2.1 The objective of developing an alternative giving campaign is in the City Council's Housing & Homelessness Strategy 2018-2021. It was also discussed in November 2017 at 'Rough Sleeping: The City Conversation' and was proposed as one of the common principles that "*small change should deliver big change*" e.g. that giving money directly to individuals is unhelpful and potentially dangerous, and it's better to donate to the many homelessness organisations working in the field.

2.2 Since the last report (June 2018) a number of key developments have had an effect upon the timing and delivery of an alternative (diverted) giving campaign:

- New Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) funding – focusing on enhanced provision in winter 2018-2019 but highlighting new ways of addressing the issues which prompt the general public to give funds to people sleeping rough. Successful programmes could be the focus for an alternative giving campaign e.g. multiagency Hub as current funding is finite.
- Rough Sleeping Partnership – progress has been made in creating a new partnership structure which includes a working group on funding which will also look at alternative (diverted) giving

3 Key Developments

3.1 New funding - improved winter provision 2018-2019

3.2 In September 2018 as part of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) funded Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI), the Council successfully bid for £503,000 funding for 2018-2019. See Appendix One

3.3 The MHCLG has provisionally awarded a further £511,000 for 2019-2020 based upon successful outcomes in 2018-2019.

4 Developing Oxford Rough Sleeping Partnership

4.1 Leading on from the City Conversation held in November 2017 an Interim Steering Group convened by Oxfordshire Community Foundation and chaired by Jane Cranston, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, is now working to create a permanent citywide partnership board, to replace the Interim Steering Group in early 2019 and help deliver a number of initiatives to tackle rough sleeping.

4.2 The Interim Steering Group has set up four working groups around four key areas:

- a) Purpose, structure and membership of the Partnership (lead Claire Dowan, Homeless Oxfordshire)
- b) Engagement and communication (lead Paul Roberts, Aspire)
- c) Access to services (lead Kate Cocker, Crisis Skylight)
- d) Funding including alternative giving (lead Jayne Woodley, Oxfordshire Community Foundation)

5 Update Alternative (Diverted) Giving

5.1 A working group, chaired by Jayne Woodley from Oxfordshire Community Foundation, is now tasked with moving this forward.

5.2 It will consider and address the following issues relating to alternative giving:

- a) **Complexity** – what governance arrangements are needed and how will funds be distributed?
- b) **Consensus** – how should homelessness organisations, both those actively involved and those who may not chose to benefit from it, be engage to gain their support?
- c) **Choices** – how should this be delivered and how to draw upon experiences from outside Oxford?

5.3 A number of specific points have been identified when considering the above. Among other things the group will be looking at whether the campaign should (in no particular order):

- a) Link with the Greater Change (<https://www.greaterchange.co.uk/>) giving platform that has been created by Oxford University's Innovation Unit and is sponsored by Aspire – noting that there are some significant differences of opinion among the partners over the appropriateness of directing funding towards particular individual rough sleepers.
- b) raise funds for named projects/initiatives or be distributed from a general fund
- c) roll throughout the year but have a number of campaigns within it e.g. around Christmas or targeted at tourists, students
- d) not just be about funds but about volunteering, skills banks, gifts in kind or donations
- e) be delivered by a mix of technical and/or low tech/no tech solutions
- f) how to define and measure success

6 Next steps

- 6.1 The Partnership Funding working group will:
 - a) consider the preparatory work already undertaken and develop next steps (October 2018)
 - b) develop proposal(s) (December 2018)
 - c) agree plan (January 2019)
- 6.2 The Partnership Officer - Rough Sleeping & Single Homelessness, Oxford City Council will continue to provide regular updates to the OSP

APPENDIX ONE

Details of Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) programme and enhanced winter provision 2018-2019:

- a) **A new multi-agency Hub** – based at Bonn Square with support provided by Oxford Street Population Outreach Team (OxSPOT), Turning Point and Aspire.
- b) **Additional Outreach capacity**- three further outreach workers provided via OxSPOT (St Mungo's) directly supporting people who are rough sleeping
- c) **An additional 41 bed spaces** this winter including five for women only and seven pre-recovery spaces for people with substance misuse issues
- d) **Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP)** will also provide additional capacity this winter 2018-2019. SWEP is triggered when there is a forecast of three consecutive days at zero degrees Celsius or below
 - **Oxford Winter Night Shelter (OWNS)** increasing capacity from 10 to 20 spaces per night, opening in Jan-Mar 2019 (not officially part of SWEP but referrals to the service come via OxSPOT)
 - **Addressing client needs (high needs)** – increased capacity for people with higher support needs and those with no local connection or recourse to public funds.
 - **Reduced pressure on core services** – the above are designed to ease and reduce pressure on core services for rough sleepers and single homeless people at an already pressurised time of year
 - **Improved communication** – engaging more widely to explain how the provision of emergency accommodation works